

THIRD PLACE WINNER

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America Should End the Murder in Darfur

5,000 years ago, Sudan was a land of kings, rich with Ivory and Gold. Nubia as the region was known, was a power in Africa. Nubian pyramids rivaled those in neighboring Egypt and Nubian kings took control of Egypt in 800 BC(Hearn, National Geographic). However, this land of power and resources is in the midst of a massive genocide which has led to the deaths of over 400,000 Sudanese (Oprah.com). In Darfur, a region located in Western Sudan, a government backed Arab group destroys entire villages(Wax, Washington Post), violating the most essential human right, life. The struggle, classified by some as genocide, is not being stopped by America, land of liberty. As hundreds of thousands of Sudanese are in peril, The United States of America needs to intervene and stop the mass murders of millions.

Sudan is an ethnically diverse country of ancient tribes and multiple religions. However, one group is taking control in Sudan, Arab extremists who oppose ancient tribes. The Janjaweed, a radical Arab militia is responsible for the murder and destruction in Darfur(Save Darfur). The Janjaweed are backed by the Sudanese government, and their ruthless violence has killed over 400,000 men, women, and children and displaced another two million(Oprah.com). Janjaweed

means “Men on Horseback with guns” and these extremists murder, rape, and destroy for the purpose of “Ethnic Cleansing”(Save Darfur), similar to that seen in the Holocaust. The Janjaweed goal is too suppress and “Lighten” the skin of the various tribes and villages of Darfur(Wax, Washington Post). These tribes are forced to flee to neighboring Chad to escape these murderous intentions(Oprah.com). The Sudanese people need help, and as a major super power, the US should put a stop to this genocide.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”(Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence) These famous words of Thomas Jefferson are more than quotes, but pleas for human rights and justices. Over 200 years ago, Americas founding fathers declared life an “Unalienable right” and now Americans face the decision of whether or not to continue the fight these great men started. In Darfur, these basic rights are being stolen from the people and as a super power and connoisseur of liberty, America needs to act. In 2006, George Bush sent 43,000 metric tons to Darfur to aid the starving(Doyle, San Francisco Chronicle) , but this is not enough. Food, though important, will not fight off viscous Janjaweed troops bent on purity and murder. Food will not stop ancient villages from

burning and women and children being raped due to intolerance and hatred. Moreover, food will not convince a government to stop supporting the murder and mutilation of its own citizens. America and other western nations need to take stronger actions against the ruthless rule of killers. To defend the rights we Americans hold dear, American and UN troops need to be sent to Sudan. A show of force and opposition against the Janjaweed can stop attacks and provide safety to thousands of villagers and refugees. Some might say that America should "Mind its own business" and end imperialistic actions. But America can no longer sit on the sidelines of genocide and mass murder. During World War II, America remained neutral in the war against the Nazis for long enough to allow Nazi troops to carry out the executions of millions of Jewish people. America cannot repeat these same mistakes and allow thousands more to be brutally murdered. Violations of the most basic of human rights are everyone's issues, and just as we would want support from other countries if Americans were being murdered, we need to offer such support to those in need. America needs to take a stand and oppose violations of human rights in Sudan, America can't stand aside as more and more human beings are killed by an out of control militant group. The Janjaweed can be stopped, but not unless the US acts.

Our lives as Americans are privileged and free. Such crimes of genocide are unimaginable to many Americans and too many are turning a blind eye. As we are fed statistics of death, rape, murder, and destructions, we may express some sympathy to those in Darfur, but we can no longer accept these injustices.

America must take a stand to save lives. Darfur needs to no longer be an issue of politics, money, and foreign policy, but a fight for salvation to the afflicted, a war for human rights. America must intervene before more men women and children are senselessly murdered. America must save Darfur.